



## NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Dr. Rogene Henderson  
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee  
c/o Mr. Fred Butterfield  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

March 10, 2005

Dear Dr. Henderson and CASAC PM Review Panel members:

We are doctors, scientists, professors, clinicians, and researchers who share a serious concern about the widespread public health threat posed by air pollution. The air quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must protect the health of all Americans, and especially the most vulnerable -- children, the elderly, people with asthma, and those with chronic heart and lung disease.

As you know, much new high quality research into the health effects of particulate air pollution has been completed since EPA's last review of the air quality standards in 1997. EPA's final Criteria Document synthesizing the results of these studies provides extensive evidence that serious health effects are occurring with exposures allowed by the 1997 standards. Based on these data, we believe that strengthening of the 24-hour and annual average fine particle standards is now needed to protect public health.

The second draft Staff Paper represents a valid review of both past and recent research on the health effects of particle pollution, and provides a strong rationale for considering more protective annual and 24-hour average standards for fine particles.

The recommendations by EPA staff scientists -- to strengthen the form and level of the standards -- are based upon sound science. Therefore, the ranges proposed -- between 25-35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for the 24 hour standard, and between 12 -14  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for the annual average standard are well-supported by the health evidence and the results of the risk assessment.

Under the Clean Air Act, the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards must be set to protect the people most sensitive to particle air pollution -- infants, children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung conditions -- with an adequate margin of safety. The standards must be based strictly on health protection.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the signers of this letter,

George D. Thurston, Sc.D.  
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Attachment: List of Letter Signatories

cc Dr. Mary Ross

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Docket #: OAR-2001-0017

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